

CHAPTER 28

PARKS & RECREATION

ARTICLE I – LAKES AND PARK REGULATIONS

28-1-1 **DEFINITIONS.** The following words when used in this Chapter shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this Section:

"Park". Any park, playground, lake property, or other real estate owned by the City of Mt. Sterling, Illinois, and used for park, playground, or recreational purposes.

"Craft". Craft includes any boat, raft, canoe, or any other floating apparatus not permanently attached to the shore.

28-1-2 **BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES.** No building or other structure, whether for habitation or otherwise, shall be constructed in any park in the City unless a permit is obtained therefor.

28-1-3 **SEWAGE DISPOSAL GENERALLY.** No toilet, water closet, urinal, privy, cesspool, septic tank, sewer or other means of disposing, storing, retaining, or disposing of sewage, sind, or bathroom waste shall be built or maintained in any part or upon any park in the City of Mt. Sterling unless a written permit has been granted by the applicable health authorities therefor.

28-1-4 **CONNECTION TO UTILITIES.** No person shall make any connection to any utility services of the City in any park, alter or disturb any water pipe, conduit, electrical wire or line, sewer or other utility line except with a permit from the City therefor.

28-1-5 **POLLUTION OF WATERS AND WATERCOURSES GENERALLY.** No person shall in any park, or drainage area of the City, place, throw, discharge or cause to be discharged any sewage, garbage, decayed or fermented fruit or vegetables, offal, dead bodies, manure, pollution of any kind, filth, decaying, fermenting or oily matter or liquid or industrial waste into or upon any portion of any park of the City of Mt. Sterling, Illinois.

28-1-6 **REGULATION OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY.** No person shall cause or permit any domestic livestock or poultry, including dogs, cats, or other animals, to run at large in any City park.

28-1-7 **FIRES IN PARKS.**
(A) No person shall light or use any unenclosed picnic fire within the municipal parks. Fires may be built only in fireplaces or on grills constructed for that purpose in designated areas.
(B) In camping areas, no person shall leave any campfire unattended by a competent person.
(C) Every person who has lighted or used any fire in a municipal park shall extinguish such fire before leaving the park.

28-1-8 **SWIMMING, BATHING AND WADING.** No swimming, bathing or wading shall be allowed in any park of the City.

28-1-9 **SKIING AND SURFBOARDS.** Water skiing and surfboard riding shall not be permitted at any lake in any park owned by the City.

28-1-10 **BOATING.** No boat or craft shall be operated on any lake in any park in the City with a motor or engine consisting of a combustion engine. Electric motors shall be allowed as long as used in a safe and careful manner.

28-1-11 **LIFE PRESERVERS.** No board or craft of any kind or character shall be operated on any lake in any park in the City, unless it carries for each occupant an approved life preserver in good condition, especially designed for that purpose.

28-1-12 **RENTING BOATS.** The business of renting boats for hire or carrying passengers for hire on any lake owned by the City is specifically prohibited.

28-1-13 **FISHING.** Fishing is authorized on lakes in parks owned by the City and said fishing shall be controlled by the State Game Code and the rules and regulations thereof shall apply to fish, turtles and bullfrogs with the following exceptions:

(A) The limit and size of channel catfish shall be a minimum of **eight (8) inches** in length and a daily personal limit catch of **eight (8) fish**. This limit may be altered as fishing conditions warrant with the approval of the City Council and the City will then post signs accordingly.

(B) Fishing shall be done with a single line and hook only. All brush lines, jug lines, trout lines, and nets, traps or commercial fishing of any kind is specifically prohibited.

28-1-14 **PICNICS.** No person shall picnic in the municipal parks except in areas designated for that purpose. Park personnel are hereby authorized to regulate the activities in such areas when necessary to prevent congestion or to secure the maximum use, comfort, and convenience of all. Visitors shall comply with any directions given to achieve this end. Also, picnicking is authorized so long as the premises are kept neat and clean, and all debris, paper, garbage, rubbish and other materials not conducive to good sanitary conditions shall be removed before leaving the premises and any fires made for the purposes of picnicking shall be put out.

28-1-15 **CAMPING.**

(A) In pursuance of the authority conferred by **65 ILCS 5/11-100-1** of the Illinois Municipal Code, all persons at the lake or parks belonging to the City, are required to abide by the following rules and regulations when camping, or using mobile homes, campers, mobile cabins, or tents.

(B) Camping shall be allowed only at the City Lake property in as much as this park has sanitary facilities for toilet use available. Camping will be restricted to designated camping areas only and all campers will be subject to any Rules and Regulations adopted by the Lake Committee. All overnight camping will require a camping permit which may be purchased from the lake caretaker. The price of the permit shall be posted on a sign at the entrance to the City Lake property and also at City Hall where permits may be purchased. Anyone camping at the City Lake property after **10:00 P.M.** without a permit shall be subject to penalties of **Section 1-1-20**.

(C) No person shall camp, use a camper, mobile home, mobile cabin, or tent upon the lands or park without first registering with the City Clerk, or the Lake Caretaker or his designee. Any person desiring to register shall give his name, current state license number on any vehicle which will be used by him, and description of the type of accommodations he intends to use, together with his residence address. Upon registration the applicant shall state the duration of his intended stay and shall pay a fee in accordance with the schedule adopted by Resolution of the City Council from time to time.

(D) It shall be the duty of every person obtaining such a permit to remove his camping or other equipment within **one (1) hour** after the expiration time and to obey all rules and regulations pertaining to the use of the lake/park. It shall be unlawful for any person to place camping equipment on the lands without first obtaining the permit required; and any person causing his camping equipment, camper, mobile home, mobile cabin or tent to be placed on the grounds without first obtaining a permit, or to permit such to remain after the permit has expired, agrees to pay in addition to the penalties herein provided, a reasonable charge for removal service and storage and the person furnishing such services may hold the property until such service is paid in full.
(Ord. No. 2021-23; 09-20-21)

28-1-16 SKATING AND ICE BOATING. No ice boating shall be permitted on any lake in any park owned by the City. Skating shall be permitted only in designated areas so long as done in a reasonable and proper manner having regard for the number of persons upon any designated part of the lake.

28-1-17 DESTRUCTION OF PARK PROPERTY. Within the municipal parks, no person except park personnel on official business shall cut, break, climb on, carry away, conceal, transfer, tamper with, mark upon or in any way injure, damage or deface, any tree, shrub, plant, turf, grass, lamp post, hydrant, regulating device, transformer, meter, wire, wiring, pole, curbstone, flagstone, fence, wall, bridge, railing, bench, building or other structure of any kind or property or take down, alter, mar, move, injure, or destroy any sign, trail marker, post, or other item placed in any park owned by the City or drive any motor car, vehicle, boat, or craft in such a manner as to cause the same to collide with, run against, strike or cause to strike, injure or deface or damage any such property.

28-1-18 ADVERTISING. The erection or maintenance of any sign, bill, poster or placard, or the distributing of any advertising material by handbills or otherwise, in any park owned by the City is hereby prohibited except as authorized by the City Council.

28-1-19 TRAFFIC REGULATIONS. All traffic regulations in any parks owned by the City whether within or without the City boundaries shall be regulated pursuant to traffic ordinances heretofore or hereafter passed by the City Council. Traffic control and speed signs shall be set and observed pursuant to the City Code.

28-1-20 DISORDERLY CONDUCT. No person shall commit in public any indecent, lewd or filthy act, nor use any threatening or obscene language or make any indecent gesture or movement or make any indecent exposure of his person, solicit, pander or sell or offer to sell, give away or offer to give away, or have in his possession or display or exhibit in public any obscene or indecent materials.

28-1-21 BREACH OF PEACE. No person shall make, aid or countenance, or assist in making any improper noise, racket, disturbance, breach of the peace or anything tending to be a breach of the peace in any park owned by the City.

28-1-22 PARK HOURS. The Mt. Sterling City Lake Property shall be closed to the public at **10:00 P.M.** each evening, with the exception of persons holding camping permits for that evening.
(See Section 28-1-15)

28-1-23 **LAKE GROUNDS VEGETATION.** The property immediately surrounding the Mt. Sterling City Lake is to be planted and maintained in grassland vegetation so as to prevent erosion of the land surrounding the City Lake. The property is not to be planted in crops for the purposes of an annual harvest.

28-1-24 **CITY CODE.** All provisions of this City Code of the City of Mt. Sterling, Illinois, shall apply to all parks owned by the City whether within the corporate limits of the City.